

1. SERIES SUMMARY

This is the fourth lesson in the series dealing with God's original intent, presented in the following order:

- Creation: Man was brought out of God to be loved and to put God's glory on display through maturity in sonship.
- Covenants: The new covenant is with a son that develops in maturity from *Nepios*, to *Paidon*, to *Teknon*, to ultimate maturity of *Huios*, where the inheritance is unlocked.
- Redemption Sin/disobedience separates us from sonship and makes us orphans. Only the blood of Christ could pay the price to free us from sin so we could walk in obedience.
- The Church We will explore the past history, present state and prophetic future of the church
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2. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

There are almost 100 metaphors and statements in the bible to describe what the church is. The most common idea is an assembly or gathering (*qâhal* in Hebrew).

Deuteronomy 4:10

The day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, the Lord said to me, 'Assemble the people before Me, and I will let them hear My words, so that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth and may instruct their children.'

It is important to note that God calls the people to gather. He calls them together to hear His words. The leader's role is to gather the people before the Lord. The people must learn to reverence God and teach their children His ways.

In the new testament, the Greek word ***ekklēsia*** is used for *church* which means "assembly" or "gathering". This word was commonly applied to the 'calling out' of citizens to rule over a public decision. It was also used when soldiers were called up for battle. Another common use of the word was to call people out of a system because they did not fit in or stood out.

1 Corinthians 1:2

“To God’s church at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus and called as saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord — both their Lord and ours.”

The church is God’s church. It is made up of saints who live in various places that have been called out from darkness into light, from being orphans to being to sons.

3. WHAT HAS THE CHURCH BEEN CALLED OUT OF?

Revelation 18:4

Then I heard another voice from heaven: Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sins or receive any of her plagues.

Revelation 18:2

He cried in a mighty voice: It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen!

We are called out of the systems of this world – Babylon is a symbol of the system of this world. The word *Babylon* means ‘confusion’. The systems of the world are governed by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life:

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For everything that belongs to the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s lifestyle — is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does God’s will remains forever.

4. IT IS FINISHED

It is Finished! Jesus made it possible for us to come out of this world’s evil system. He said ‘it is finished’, which can also be translated as ‘that baffled wind has expired’ – i.e. ‘that carnal man is over’.

John 19:28-30

After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now accomplished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, He said, “I’m thirsty!” A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on hyssop, and held it up to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” Then bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Death could not hold a soul that did not sin! The soul that sins it shall die. The finished work of the cross allows us to exit the system of the world (where we lived as orphans) and brings us into the family of God, where we live as sons.

Revelation 21:6-7

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give water as a gift to the thirsty from the spring of life. The victor will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son."

5. HEADSHIP: WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 1:22-23

And He put everything under His feet, and appointed Him as head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way.

Christ is the Head of the church. Head (Greek: *Kephale*) = 'Source' or 'Origin' (The Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott Greek lexicon).

1 Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

We could paraphrase this by saying: "the SOURCE of man is Christ, and the SOURCE of woman is man". Headship is not about control and domination, but being a life-giving source.

6. THE CHURCH IS ESTABLISHED UPON REVELATION

Matthew 16:17-18

And Jesus responded, "Simon son of Jonah, you are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it.

Christ builds his church by revelation. Jesus builds His church - not pastors. Pastors co-labour with Christ as HE builds His church. The church is built upon the revelation of 'the Father revealing the Son'.

To be called the church you need the saving work of grace through faith

- Salvation – transferred from one kingdom to another.
- Redemption – to be bought back into sonship - you must be born again.
- Baptism is an important act of obedience. It is the evidence that the person has died. He has been buried – the old, carnal man has been buried. *Corpus Delecti* = ‘missing body’ in Latin. This means that you cannot prosecute a corpse – the charge against the ‘old man’ is invalid (Sam Soleyn).
- Sanctification – to be set aside - through trials and suffering in this world we are purified.
- Glorification - We need to represent a mature image as son.

The invitation:

Revelation 22:17

Both the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Anyone who hears should say, “Come!” And the one who is thirsty should come. Whoever desires should take the living water as a gift.
